



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CMC-MR
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WHITE LETTER NO. 09-01

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: INCREASING THE SOCIALIZATION OF THE MARINE CORPS

1. One of the joys of being a Marine is that we can continually draw upon our history and actively celebrate the richness of our traditions with those who share our values and way of life. This is the essence of our strength and what embodies the Marine Corps spirit. The ability to instill this spirit is a defining attribute of quality leadership. When we succeed as leaders, Marines develop a sense of belonging and an understanding of their personal ownership and responsibility for the furtherance of our Marine Corps "society."

2. Societies are built not only upon shared culture, but mutual interests, companionship, and relationships that can only be developed through interaction and socialization. If we do not continue to advance our Corps' societal values, we will become another bureaucracy. Today's quick-paced and more demanding lifestyle makes achievement of socialization goals more challenging, but Marine leaders must directly address this task. While units and commands engage in socialization through official proceedings, informal settings provide a needed dimension to this end.

3. As leaders, we must look for ways to make social interaction possible, beneficial and enjoyable. In this regard, the Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) offers a broad range of such opportunities. Fitness centers, playing fields, golf courses, bowling centers, and other recreation pursuits are great socialization possibilities for Marines and their families. We should actively support and nurture events associated with these venues. Above all, however, the traditional value and versatility of our clubs make them especially useful places for furthering important Marine Corps socialization goals. To make clubs an appealing choice for socializing, MCCS is investing in facility and equipment upgrades, décor enhancements, and in an extensive employee-

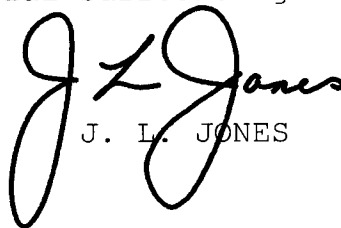
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training program, and the expansion of programs, services, and special events. Many club activities are being subsidized by MCCS to ensure such services are provided, even in those areas when a limited patron base exists. For our part, Marine leaders must be actively engaged in creating the environment and offering the activities that respond to our Marines interests and those of their families.

4. Our bases and stations must be at the center of our quality of life objectives. In the past, we have written our policies and regulations in such a way as to discourage Marines and their families from staying aboard our installations for relaxation, recreation, and socialization. Too often, "zero defects" was the standard for our on base expectations. Small wonder that too many Marines and their families no longer consider our bases and stations as being anything other than a place to work.

5. I urge you to promote, and encourage the use of, our clubs. In addition to your official and informational requirements such as Professional Military Education sessions, holding meetings, celebrating unit achievements, hosting command events, and for impromptu Officers and SNCO calls or bosses nights, be creative in organizing and supporting entertainment and party events that will attract Marines and families. I also challenge you to review restrictive local policies that tend to hinder our socialization objectives.

6. Clubs are a valuable element of the tradition and culture which defines who we are as Marines. Embrace this concept and help to create an environment where Marines can feel good about being with one another in social surroundings.



J. L. JONES